

*James A*

### Allan Mair

Allan Mair, the son of John Mair and Mary Foulds, was born April 23, 1815 in Mauchline, Ayrshire, Scotland. He came from a family of thirteen children, having nine brothers and three sisters. His father at one time was a servant in the small village of Killoch, a short distance north of Mauchline. When Allan was just a boy, his family moved to a small town called Gaswater, where ironstone mining was the prime industry.

Allan spent a good portion of his growing-up years in Gaswater and was employed at the mines. On June 4, 1841 he married Mary Murdoch, a girl whom he had known since childhood. They made their home in a small settlement known as High Gaswater which is situated 300 yards up the hill from the main village of Gaswater. They were able to own a small but comfortable home. Allan and Mary also lived in other areas known as the Stables and on the Carbellow Farm which are both within one mile of Gaswater.

Allan and Mary were blessed with nine children, seven boys and two girls. One girl and two of the boys died in infancy.

Allan was a hard worker and a good provider for his family. Besides being employed as an ironstone miner, he did some farming while living in Carbellow. His occupation was listed as "retired watchman" in the 1891 Auchinleck Parrish Census. He was probably employed at the mine or at the Stables.

Allan and his wife had a fine home and a wonderful family; however, there was some discontentment concerning religion. Mary had joined the Mormon Church on June 4, 1851, and Allan did not want anything to do with it. Mary's brother, John Murray, had also joined this church, left Scotland for the United States, and settled in Heber City, Utah. Also her mother, Mary Murray Murdoch, left Scotland to join her son, John Murray, in Utah but died enroute at Chimney Rock, Nebraska.

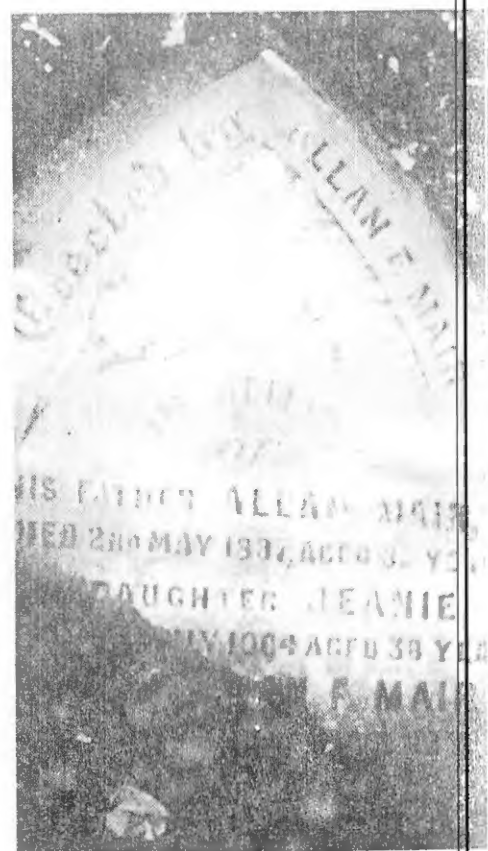
Mary, having a great desire to have her family raised up in the Mormon Church, secretly left her husband, taking her three youngest children to Utah, arriving in 1866. These children were Mary, Andrew, and Alexander. Two older sons, John and James, had previously left Scotland and settled in the eastern part of the United States. This left Allan and his son, Allan Foulds, who was twenty-one years of age, alone in Scotland. They were both very lonely for a long time, hoping that some day Mary would return. In 1870 the son, Allan Foulds, married Jane Ronald of Muirkirk and was eventually blessed with eleven children. Allan was very close

to his family and had great comfort in their companionship. He spent some of the later years of his life living in their home. He also lived with his granddaughter Mary Mair Moffat. Allan Mair died on May 2, 1897 at the age of eighty-two and was buried in the Auchinleck Cemetery.

Annie Lindsay Clyde of Heber City, Utah corresponded for some time with Mary Mair Moffat in Scotland. A direct quotation from a letter written by this granddaughter dated February 5, 1933 describes Allan Mair as follows: "I am just going to talk plain truth, no use going around about way, well, Dear Old Grandfather was a very standoffish man and we never heard him mention much of his life. I know he was very much cut out when my Grandmother left for Salt Lake. She had wanted him to go out there, but he said no of course she went out there herself and we never heard him mention her name others ways than she was a good wife, of course you must understand it left a bitter feeling with him. He was a very strict man and he ruled us with a rod of iron indeed we always clung to him."



Grave site of Allan Mair in the Auchinleck cemetery. These pictures were taken by Bill Mair, who found that the upper portion of the gravestone had fallen off.





Mary Murdoch Mair McMillan

Mary Murdoch Mair McMillan was the fourth daughter and fifth child of James and Mary Murray Murdoch. She was born at Gaswater, Ayrshire, Scotland, October 3, 1818. Her father having died when she was very young, she was compelled to go out to work for other people to help earn her living. They were living in an area where most of the people were farmers and stock raisers and she, of course, went to work in homes of that type of people and learned to do all kinds of work that women and girls did around farms. In those days in Scotland the women usually milked the cows and fed them, made the butter and cheese, and also had to help rake the hay and harvest the grain. There was no machinery used in the harvest fields in those days; all the hay was cut by hand with scythes, and the grain was cut with sickles and bound by hand. It was very hard work and a very slow process. The fields were surrounded by hills that were covered with the bonnie bloomin' heather, which is really beautiful along in July and August when it is in full bloom. It is also the chief supply of food for the sheep and cattle which graze on the hills most of the year.

Mary helped knit the family's stockings. During the winter she attended school. She and her sister Veronica were in the same room. One day when Mary was coughing, the teacher told her she must stop coughing or leave the room. Veronica went to her and whispered in her ear, "Mary, ye dinna ha to." She did not attend school very long but did learn to read, write, spell, and count. Thus she grew to be a strong and healthy young woman, quite efficient in all kinds of women's work and as such, with a cheerful disposition, she attracted the attention of the young men in that neighborhood. When about twenty-two years of age she was married to a very steady young man named Allan Mair who grew up with her in the little village.

This was a strictly religious community where practically everybody attended church, and the Sabbath day was very strictly observed by all. Allan, being a very steady, industrious young man and a willing worker, and Mary being of a frugal, saving disposition, they were soon comfortably settled down in a little cottage with simple furnishings and happy and contented with their lot in life. This was about 1840. In 1841 their oldest child, a son named John, was born and in a very few years they had quite a little family to provide for. They had a total of nine children. They were both hardworking and saved what means came into their hands, and of course got along very well and seemed to be prospering nicely.

In 1850 the Mormon elders came preaching the restored gospel of Jesus Christ in their vicinity, and not long after, Mary's brother, John Murray, and his wife, Ann Steel, became interested in their doctrines and after due consideration were baptized. Mary, having recently lost two of her children, Matthew and William, in infancy, readily accepted their doctrine of the plan of salvation and life after death. She tried hard to convince her husband of the truth of Mormonism too, but he could not see the need of making a change in his religion. Mary went ahead and was baptized on June 4, 1851, by William Aird, and was confirmed by John Drennan on the same date. Her mother, Mary Murray, her sister, Veronica, and brother William's wife, Janet Lennox, also joined the Church within the next two years.

Because of Mary's affiliation with this new religion, some contention began to develop that disrupted the harmony in their home. She had received a strong testimony of the gospel, and it caused her much sorrow when she could not convince her husband of its truthfulness, and her children could not be brought up in this new faith as she so much desired they should. There also arose a spirit of persecution by former friends and neighbors against those who had joined the Mormon Church. The words of the Savior were literally fulfilled in Mary's case, as he said his doctrines would "set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross and followeth after me, is not worthy of me." (Matthew 10:35-38.) Mary desired to be worthy and bore her cross patiently for fourteen years.

Mary's brother John and his wife came to Utah in 1852, and in 1856 he sent for their mother, Wee Granny, and she too started for Utah. However, like so many others who started to cross the plains with handcarts in that year, she perished by the wayside at Chimney Rock, Nebraska. Thus, Mary felt quite alone as far as discussing the gospel with her family, except that once in a while she had occasion to talk with her brother William's wife, Janet, who, like she had joined the Church without her husband yet joining. They had long confidential talks together and perhaps Veronica also joined them in their conversations.

About 1865, at the close of the war between the northern and southern states, Mary's two oldest sons left home and came to Maryland, USA, hoping to better their condition financially, and her third son was making preparations to be married. She still had three children left at home, Mary, thirteen; Andrew, ten; and Alexander, six; three children having by now died in infancy. She became desperate to think that her children were growing up in ignorance of the truths of the gospel, which she could not even teach in her own home. She finally made up her mind if Mary, who was thirteen, would help her carry out her plan, she would leave her husband and home and go to Utah, where her younger children could be taught.



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the gospel, and they could make their home among the Saints in Zion.

Daughter Mary readily took hold of the proposition, and together they began to make preparation for leaving as soon as all arrangements could be made for their trip to Liverpool. John Aird, a member of the Church, acted as agent for them, making all necessary arrangements. He forwarded their baggage that had been sent to him in small parcels that Mary had carried to the station. They had also sent him money to secure their passage across the ocean. He notified them just when the ship would sail from Liverpool so they could leave home at the right time. She gave her husband to understand they were just going on a short visit and in this way left him and started for Utah. Andrew, not knowing that he would not be back home in a few days, asked his father to feed his rabbits till he came back. This was in the month of May, 1866. They boarded the Saint Mark, a sailing ship bound for New York with a company of Mormon emigrants. They sailed from Liverpool, England, June 6, 1866, with a Mr. A. Stevens in charge. Their voyage was a fairly good one, and they arrived in New York on the twenty-sixth of June.

The father learned of this and had a cablegram sent to his sons in Maryland asking them to go to New York and at least prevent the children from coming to Utah to live among the Mormons. His sons got the message and came to New York but they were too late, the company having left just a few days before. They then gave up the chase and returned to Maryland.

Mary and the family reached the Missouri River after the usual trials and hardships incident to such a journey, and were assigned to Captain Andrew Scott's ox train. Here they were to cross the dreary plains of some thousand miles where everybody had to walk the distance traveled by the oxen each day. This journey took two months, as the teams traveled very slowly. They traveled some fifteen to twenty miles each day, often lying over on Sunday.

They walked in the heat and dust all day and cooked their food by a smoky fire, sometimes with no wood and poor water. They slept in tents outdoors on the hard ground with ten to twelve persons to a tent. They got along fairly well, however, until they came to the Black Hills or mountain country, where young Mary became ill with mountain fever. She was very sick and had to be carried in the wagon the rest of the way. However, her condition was much improved when they arrived at Uncle John Murray Murdoch's in Heber about the last of September, 1866.

It was a very happy meeting. It had been fourteen years since Mary had last seen her brother, John, and everyone had passed through many trying times since they bade each other goodbye in their native land. Now that they were all safe in Zion they had cause to rejoice. They had many sorrowful tales to tell each other, and especially in speaking of their dear mother's death on the plains while she was trying to reach her son, John. There was also the sad fate of James Steel, who died on the plains, leaving a wife and two small children. James Steel was a brother of Ann Steel,

wife of John Murray Murdoch. They talked of how they had pinched and saved to be able to send money to pay the fare of his mother and brother-in-law, both of whom died on the way.

Not long after their arrival Thomas Todd, who had known Mary in Scotland, came to visit her, and after a few visits he asked her to become his plural wife. She accepted his offer, and they went to the Endowment House in Salt Lake City and were married. They went to their new home, where Alex and Mary recuperated from their illness and began to work for different families. Andrew got a job feeding stock and doing chores for his board and lodging. Their marriage did not prove entirely satisfactory, and in less than four years they separated. He gave to her a lot with a log cabin on it and wood and flour to last her a year as required by Bishop Hatch. He did this, as he considered she was entitled to some consideration on account of the treatment she had received. In this way their matrimonial partnership ended. In December 1868 daughter Mary, at sixteen years of age, married William Lindsay. They later became the parents of eleven children.

About 1871 Daniel McMillan, the village blacksmith and a widower with a grown family, asked Mary to marry him, and she accepted his offer. She had been properly divorced from Thomas Todd. They were duly married in the Endowment House on June 26, 1871, and Mary went to his home and took up her abode. It was a log cabin and not very well furnished, but he was kind and gentle to her in his own way. He was quite an intelligent man too, but had contracted the habit of drinking liquor, which caused Aunt Mary trouble and anxiety all the rest of her life. However, he was an honest and hard-working man and earned good wages, but had not been able to save much. So, of course, Aunt Mary did all she could to change this condition, as through her whole life she had practiced thrift and economy. In her quiet Scotch way she had saved every cent that she possibly could and began making improvements in their home and surroundings. In a very few years, through her strict economy and saving, she managed to save enough to build quite a respectable stone house in which to live, and furnished it so that they were very comfortable. They also bought some land and had several cows, pigs, and chickens to help make their living. Through her thrift and economy with his earnings, he became wealthy compared with his financial condition before Mary became his wife. Mary's son Andrew married Mary Ann Thompson in 1879, and Alexander married Eliza Thompson in 1883. Andrew later had eleven children and Alexander ten.

While Mary was able to work she not only took care of her husband's earnings, but she earned means in every way possible herself. She acted as a midwife for some years and did a great deal of needlework for others. Always busy, she was a splendid example of industry. She was never more happy than when talking over the beauties of the gospel plan or listening to some of the discourses of the leaders of the



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Church. She never felt to murmur or complain, and she earnestly desired that her children would become active workers in the Church and show that they appreciated what she had done for them in bringing them to Zion.

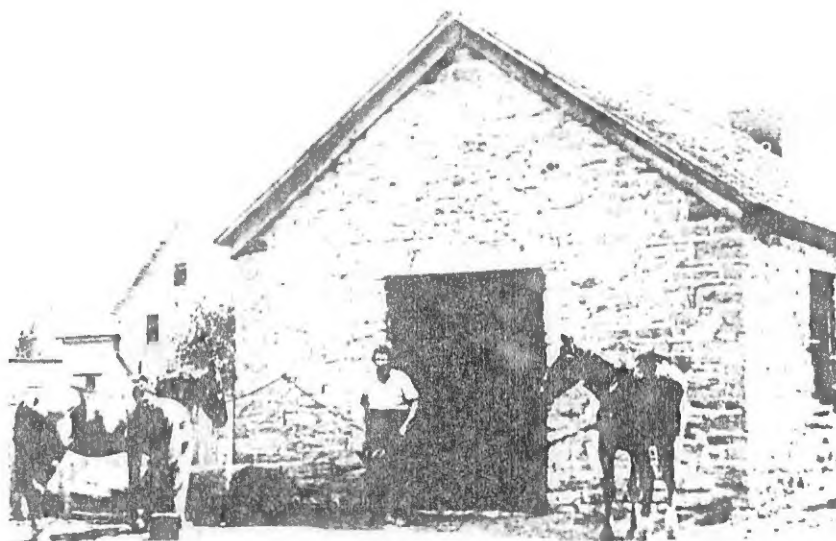
One day a woman with three children came along and asked if they could stay in the old house for a few weeks, and of course she was given permission. After being there a few days she asked if Mary would take care of her two little girls, four and six years of age, as she had to make a short visit to Park City. This was also granted and the woman left and never came back. Mary cared for them just as if they had been her own and supplied all their wants and sent them to school. In later years Mary had an attack of rheumatism in her back and was unable to walk. The girls by this time were old enough to attend to the housework and wait on her when necessary, and they both proved true and faithful to Mary and waited on her just as if she had been their real mother. She could give the girls direction with the housework, and even while lying in that condition she did a great amount of knitting for others. She just could not be idle. The girls' name was Olsen, Elva and Nettie. They both married well and raised good families. Elva married Joseph Howarth and Nettie married James Reid Lindsay. So the little girls left in her care actually proved a blessing to her in her later years.

In March 1869, Mary's oldest son came and had a few days' visit. He seemed to be quite favorably impressed with what he saw. In fact, he said that perhaps it was better for the younger children that they came to Utah. He had come west with a group of bridge builders for the Union Pacific Railway, all the way from Omaha. They were paying good wages and he wanted to come west to see his mother, brothers, and sister. He could only stay two days as he had to go back to his work. When the railroad was completed he went to his home in North Lawrence, Kansas, and died there in 1872, leaving a wife and two children, Allan and Mary. (These two grandchildren never married or had children.)

In 1898 Mary's other son, James Mair, came to Heber and stayed two or three weeks, visiting his mother and all the relatives. He too seemed to enjoy his visit very much and formed a very good opinion of the Mormon people and their way of living. He admitted before he returned home that the Mormons were a much better people than he had had any idea of. He had some long talks with his dear mother and felt to forgive her for leaving her husband in the way she did. He also felt that the children were much better off in every way than they would have been with their father in Scotland. He married in Maryland in October, 1868, to a very good woman named Mary Ann Pengelly from Cornwall, England. She was a very neat and tidy woman. They were unable to have children. He returned to his home in Maryland and reported conditions in Utah as he found them to his wife. She became quite interested and expressed a desire to visit his Utah relatives and

the Mormon people. Some three years later he and his wife came and spent a month visiting all the relations in their homes and attending various Church services. They were taken to see all the sights of interest in the valley as well as Park City and Salt Lake City, where a few of the Murdoch families were. They were treated royally by all. They fully appreciated the kindness shown and expressed a desire to come again. They had long talks with John Murray and William, Mary's brothers, on religion and other topics, and also with William Lindsay, with whom they stayed most of the time. James and his wife returned in 1912 and had another four weeks' visit, which they thoroughly enjoyed. They seemed hesitant to leave their Mormon friends. However, they returned to Eckhart, Maryland, where James Mair died in April, 1915; his wife died there in October, 1922. They were good, honest, and kind-hearted people and very much respected in their community. Mary, James's sister, visited them in Eckhart in 1907 and was royally treated by them for some three weeks.

Mary Murdoch Mair McMillan died on December 5, 1900, at the age of eighty-one years. She was loved and respected by all who knew her, and never lost her faith in God or in the gospel for which she had suffered so much. Although very thrifty, she was generous and kind to the poor, sick, and afflicted. While able, she was always willing to lend a helping hand. She set a worthy example for children and friends to follow of faith, patience, and loyalty to God. She was indeed a humble and faithful member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. (Family histories by Phil Rasmussen and others.)



Daniel McMillan, shown here in the entrance of his shop, was one Heber's early blacksmiths. Andrew Mair, Sr., is in photo shoeing the horse.